

# **EXHIBIT 21**

Innocent dad  
visiting Marist  
student for...

Greenwich  
Village block  
held hostage b...

Cops looking for  
creep who  
sexually...

Rebuffed beggar  
takes frustration  
out on diners ...

Woman fatally  
struck by NYC  
subway train a...

NY boosts  
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to \$34 billion,...

**METRO**

# Stabbings and slashings surge on Rikers Island

By **Griffin Kelly**

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Experts say the gory onslaught is the result of violent felons making up the bulk of inmates at Rikers these days.

J.C. Rice

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## Rikers inmate who jumped into NYC river dies: attorney

## Two NYC correction officers admit to smuggling in drugs for bribes

It's a bloodbath on Rikers Island.

In 2021, the complex saw 419 total slashings and stabbings of inmates and corrections officers — a 1,097 percent increase from 2011 — according to figures shared during a public Department of Corrections meeting earlier this week. In that same time, the inmate population dropped by more than half, from 12,419 to 5,563.

This year is on course to be even bloodier, data show.

By the end of April, 191 stabbings were recorded, according to Board of Corrections member Julio Medina. That's on pace for 575 for the year, a 37 percent increase from 2021.

Some of these vicious attacks include a Bloods gang member who was **slashed in the face with a large kitchen knife** at the start of April, and a corrections officer who nearly **lost his eye and ended up with eight stitches** while breaking up a fight in March.

Experts say the gory onslaught is the result of violent felons making up the bulk of inmates at Rikers these days, as bail reform has kept low-level criminals out.



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A corrections officer is seen after being slashed in the face at Rikers.



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“We did the numbers from January to April, and we’ve already lost 400 officers due to resignations and retirements. In the same period, only 75 recruits graduated from the academy,” he said. “We need bodies to be able to make everyone safe in our jails.”



One inmate fashioned a knife out of plexiglass, with handles made from ripped cloth.

Rikers has gained notoriety recently for **crammed cells, absentee officers and deteriorating infrastructure**, including broken plexiglass, metal bed frames and heating coils.

Images provided by a corrections source show chunks of plexiglass an inmate had chiseled into a dull but deadly knife, with handles fashioned from ripped cloth and pages of a newspaper. Another image shows an officer with a blade jutting out of her hand after intervening in a gang fight.

Boscio blamed the de Blasio administration and his DOC commissioners for mishandling Rikers and cutting back on weapon searches.

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Corrections Officers' Benevolent Association President Benny Boscio Jr. attributed the alarming rise in stabbings and slashings to the jail's long running staffing crisis.

"It was eight years of neglect," he said. "The prior administration was so concerned about use of force that they thought putting all the same gang members in the same housing areas would stop inmate-on-inmate violence, but it didn't. Now they were just struggling for power. It created armies."

Current DOC Commissioner Louis Molina shared the same sentiment.

"The ineffective decisions of prior leaders of this city and this agency have crippled the Department's ability to effectively operate and it has resulted in tragedies for officers and people in custody alike," he said.

Manhattan federal prosecutors recently threatened to seek **federal monitoring for Rikers Island** if the DOC doesn't curb violence, correct staffing issues and fix living conditions.

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